Samurai Drive

Shouja Sense

Volume 2 Extra

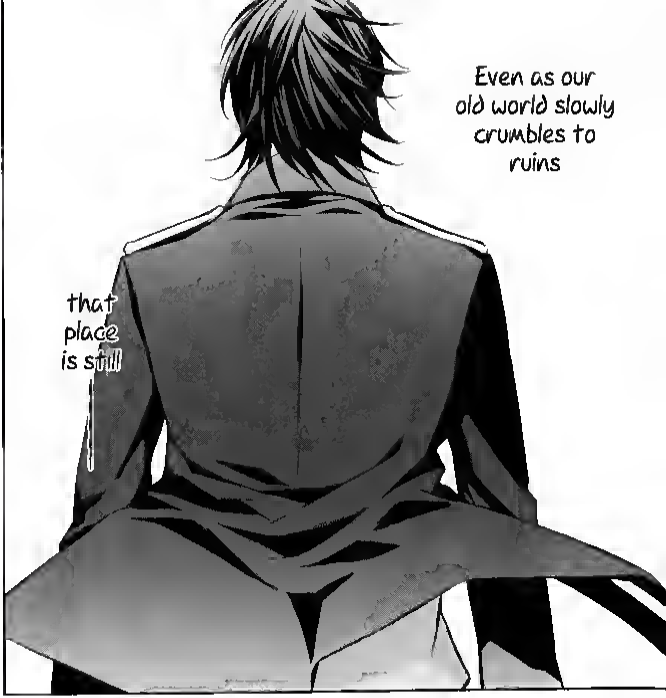
By: Fujiko Hosumi

Credits

Scanner: Kinky
Translator: Kess
Proofreader: Papirus
Cleaner: I Love Anime
Typesetter: acmangalover
QCer: hemony

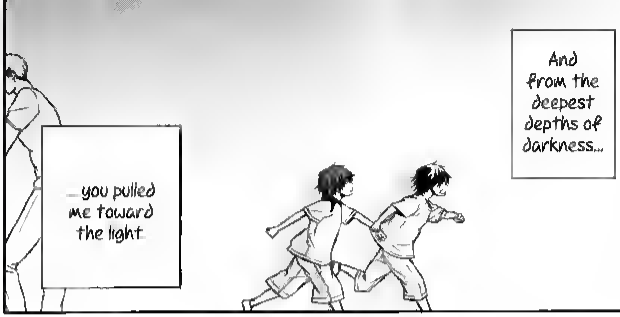
http://forum.shoujosense.co.cc
http://shoujosense.wordpress.com/
shoujocrusader@gmail.com

#8.5 [another story]
彼の背之回


Even as our old world slowly crumbles to ruins
that place is still

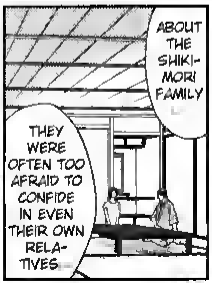
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES #5
Q GIRLS ARE SCARCE
That's a tough question...?
A WAIT 'TIL THE NEXT VOLUME!

HOLD HIM DOWN!
DROP THE KATANA!
I'll kill him!
No, let go!
You reached for my hand
For an instant
Our eyes met


And from the deepest depths of darkness...
...you pulled me toward the light.

THE CHILD'S NAME IS HIDEHITO SHIKIMORI.
HIS FAMILY IS RELATED TO THE SAITOUS AND HAS A TAITOU PRIVILEGE, TOO.

THEY WERE VERY CAREFUL IN WHAT THEY LET US KNOW SO WE DIDN'T REALIZE THE SITUATION WAS THAT BAD...
UNTIL IT DEGENERATED INTO THE WORST POSSIBLE OUTCOME IN THE END.


ABOUT THE SHIKIMORI FAMILY
THEY WERE OFTEN TOO AFRAID TO CONFIDE IN EVEN THEIR OWN RELATIVES.

A TEN-YEAR-OLD BOY WITNESSED HIS MOTHER BEING STABBED AND HIS FATHER BEING ARRESTED ... I AM ENTIRELY TO BLAME FOR THIS.
DEAR.
... SO HOW IS HIDEHITO-KUN?
WELL...
HE WON'T GO IN IT.
I HAVE A ROOM READY FOR HIM, BUT..
GOOD-NESS.
HE'S SLEEPING PEACE-FULLY, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD BE ABLE TO AFTER THAT INCIDENT...
That's one thing I was reproved for when I was very young.

Shoujo Sense
I didn't originally feel any kind of emotion about what had happened to my parents.
And
In those days I was like a robot
THIS IS HIDEHITO-KUN
FROM TODAY ON, HE'LL BE LIVING WITH US.
HE'S TEN YEARS OLD LIKE YOU, HIDEHITO-KUN.
I lived by harboring those negative thoughts in my mind
Hello
THIS IS YOUR OLDER SISTER, SHIN
AND YOUR BROTHER JIN.
"Don't expect anything since you'll be disappointed anyway"
and I started to harden and become more and more reserved as a result
I was hurting
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
and about losing that again.
Many times when I felt safe back then I would remind myself about my old family
despite that family's letting me in and the warmth they shared
Poor boy
He needs to be helped
Besides.

When I met him.
EH? WHY'S HE HERE?
I WAS TOO EXCITED TO SLEEP.
WHOA, JIN, THOSE ARE BEAR-SIZE SHADOWS UNDER YOUR EYES!
I felt...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!!
YESTERDAY, HE HAD A SWORD THRUST IN FRONT OF HIS EYES AND HE DIDN'T EVEN BLINK, HE'S SO AWESOME!
BECAUSE! THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I WANNA ASK HIM!
My dreams and hopes I quashed too.
HEY, DAD! HE'S GOING TO STAY WITH US FOREVER, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
nothing at all
"HIDEHITO"
NICE TO MEET YOU!
GOOD MORNING, HIDEHITO-KUN!
how-ever

THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM!! HURRY! AND WHEN YOU'RE READY, COME EAT BREAKFAST IN THE MAIN HOUSE!
THE SUN'S RISEN AND SHINING TOO!
ARE YOU WELL?
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
ARE YOU UP FOR SCHOOL?
I SEE!
THAT'S GOOD.
SO JIN, MAKE SURE TO LOOK AFTER HIM WELL!
Have a nice day!

+T/N The expression 朝起き三文の得 literally means those who rise early get 3000 ryou while those who rise late get 100 ryou. I chose an English proverb to illustrate that best.

The Saitou family had no restraint whatsoever.
.....
MOM'S SCARY RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE I CAME HERE.
COMPARED TO MY GUARDIANS FROM BEFORE-
"YOU'LL ONLY TIRE YOURSELF OUT IF YOU FORCE IT, YOU KNOW?"
"JUST DO WHAT YOU LIKE."
"IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU DON'T OVERDO IT."
What she said, puzzled me
so I tried to ignore it
IF YOU DO SOMETHING BAD,
YOU MUST WATCH OUT FOR THE FLYING SLAP,
AND ALSO
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
THAT SOMEONE GOT ANGRY AT ME AND CHEERED FOR ME
BUT IT'S A GOOD FAMILY
THEY'RE MY PRIDE.
He himself with his smile was also dazzling to me

He was well bred
THE SAITOUS ARE FAMOUS AMONG THE PRIVILEGED TAITOUSHAS, YOU KNOW?
OH YEAH, BUT JIN-KUN'S A NICE GUY.
friends
Though he was direct and didn't do favors...
people were naturally drawn to him.
YEAH, HE SEEMS TO HAVE GAINED THE FAVOR OF SHINDOU-SENSEI
LOOKS LIKE THE SAITOUS' SON.
WHO WILL WE GROW UP TO BE?
I LOOK FOR-WARD TO SEEING
Adults and chil-dren alike paid at-tention to him.
THERE WAS ONE EXCEP-TION
JIN
JIN
Everyone expected different things of him.
But it felt like he had the character to fulfill those expectations
Wherever he was, it was always full of light.

1
However
AREN'T THEY TOUGH?
I COULD TELL THAT PEOPLE WERE DISAPPROVING OF ME
WANDERING ABOUT AT MY PREVIOUS HOUSE
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO TELL ME THAT!
DON'T YOU GET IT? THAT'S AWESOME
You're an interesting guy...
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
MY APOLOGIES
I THINK THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY KINDS OF THEM.
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL
HOW COME YOU...?
In the middle of weeding as their dad told them to.
UNLIKE IN ME
Pluck
Pluck
SPEAKING ABOUT TOUGH
DID YOU HEAR? THAT I'VE BEEN CALLED "SHINDOU".
BUT I'M JUST A NORMAL GUY...
NORMAL... YOU SAY?
While you're weeding and such.

'Normal"?
No shining you mean? Like Shindou?
Why would you say something like ordinary?
!
At that time
perhaps it was because I was empty and had nothing that he meant everything.
oops
Hey, is the weeding done--!?
Someone so overwhelming like him
HANG OUT WITH ME!
!
I WON'T LEAVE YOU ANY CHANCE TO RECOVER!

IT'LL SOON BE HALF A YEAR
SINCE HIDEHITO CAME TO LIVE WITH US...
THEN TELL ME...
WHY IS THAT BOY STILL LIVING IN THAT SHED?!
DO WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SET UP TRAPS TO CAPTURE HIM.
PERHAPS TO DO THAT?!
WE'VE
LET'S LURE HIM BY SCATTERING CANDIES ALONG THE PATH LEADING TO THE MAIN HOUSE!
MOM, I CAN LEND YOU MY STASH OF SNACKS FOR THIS
HE'S FREE TO DO AS HE LIKES.
NO
THIS ISN'T FREE-DOM ..
THAT BOY IS SCARED.
SCARED ...?
Hidehito is?
EVERYDAY, MOM AND SHIN ARE THAT DES-PERATE.

Their completely secret hideout place.
SO WON'T YOU COME TO THE MAIN HOUSE?
.....

IT'S TRUE.
I DON'T NEED THAT.
If I had it
I would need to steel myself against losing it again.

I'LL REFRAIN FROM THAT.
SELFISHLY SAYING THAT YOU "DON'T LIKE BRIGHT AND WARM PLACES"!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW NASTY YOU CAN BE, YOU KNOW!
No one's like that!!

IT'S OKAY— REALLY
YOU'VE BECOME FOUR-EYES

HOW'S YOUR LEFT EYE?
OH, BY THE WAY,

HMM
PIG-HEADED

HIDEHITO, WHEN YOU WERE CUT, YOU DIDN'T MOVE AN INCH.
THAT TIME WHEN WE FIRST MET
AT THAT TIME...
...!
WHY DIDN'T YOU MOVE? WEREN'T YOU SCARED?
SO ABOUT THAT...
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE AWESOME.
Shoujo Sense

Why?
I DIDN'T FEEL SCARED.
THAT'S IT! I WANT TO BECOME A STRONG SWORDSMAN TOO.
HOW COME?
SO HOW CAN I TRAIN TO DO THAT LIKE YOU?...
DON'T CARE ABOUT LIVING.
It was back then
WHAT
I GET IT THEN
then
Since it's empty.
Inside me

YOU WANT TO DIE?
HE'S
SERIOUS
NO
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

!?
Wh-
why didn't he parry
HEH HEH...
SEE?
YOU CARE.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
It was
the first time I thought that
for a long time now.
I wasn't empty anymore
AS PUNISHMENT FOR CUTTING ME
Ah
!
I WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
I TOOK YOUR BLOW,
BUT AS I HAD IMAGINED, IT WAS SO SCARY THAT I COULDN'T LOOK BACK.
AT THAT TIME YOU DIDN'T DODGE TOO.

JIN-SAN!
ぱたぱた
each
YOU'RE AWESOME
After that,
we were both scolded.

I was to tend to Jin in the main house.
And as for my punish-ment,
I wanted to protect Jin-san from this feeling.
However
IT'S GREAT FOR A SWORDSMAN NOT TO CARE ABOUT HIS OWN LIFE
BUT IT'S ALSO SCARY
If someone lost his life..
to protect another with a life of little value
what would his sacrifice be worth then?
I realized that
because he put his life on the line
I too would lay down everything I had for him.
That's the resolution I made on my 11th winter.

And then
4 years passed
...YOU THOUGHT HE'D HAVE MOVED OVER BY NOW, NO?
I THOUGHT HE WOULD...
IS THAT BOY STILL LIVING IN THE SHED?!
SO WHY
DO WE HAVE TO DO THAT?! SET UP TRAPS AGAIN!
LET'S LURE HIM BY SCATTERING WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR ALONG THE PATH LEADING TO THE MAIN HOUSE!
He's in his puberty, it's bound to work!!
MOM, I CAN LEND YOU WHAT YOU NEED FOR THIS.
Mom and Shin have no Shame.
HEY
Horse stink?
AH, I CAN'T KEEP UP A GOOD GOING OVER THERE ALL THE TIME
with the horse stink!

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE OUT.
WELL, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME ANYWAY
Those days were peaceful
Soon the bed will be too small for you.
Having growth spurts
Got outgrown before he knew it
MY APOLOGIES. THAT'S BECAUSE I'M PECULIAR.
... I UNDERSTAND.
HIDEHITO! LET'S GO PRACTICE AT SEISHIROU'S PLACE!
Happy
In those 4 years I experienced things I never had before
full of people.
During that time
Jin-san came to respect the genius swordsman's name and actions both.

Closed for personal business
YOU HAVE TO BE A WIRE-PULLER TO ARRANGE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, QUITE CONSPICUOUSLY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAME HERE TO PRACTICE ALONG WITH SEISHIROU AND ME.
It was as if he was unable to acknowledge anyone besides...
the master fencer Seishirou Shindou
*Shinmeiryu's Dojo
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DISCUSSING PRIVATE MATTERS
DON'T SEEK FAME.
I only wish for the power to help you.
WELL, I'M THE SAME
I JUST WANT TO BE STRONG, THAT'S ALL.
BUT
I WONDER WHAT THE RIGHT TRUE STRENGTH REALLY IS
STRENGTH, HUH
From that time on, Jin-san would sometimes wear that expression with shadows on his face

Due to the Taitousha, the casualties were rising and the Haitou movement era was truly clashing against the waves of the samurai and their arrogance...
Conspiracy murder terrorism---
TELL ME, HIDEHITO, IF SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO YOU WAS IN DANGER AND YOU HAD TO CAST ASIDE YOUR OWN GOALS TO HELP HIM, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
That awfully negative chain
THAT... ARE YOU REFERRING TO SEISHIROU?
IF THAT IS THE CASE, I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION RIGHT AWAY
Righteous people are also caught up in it---
OF COURSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT YOU IS THAT YOU DON'T SAY MEANINGLESS COMFORTING WORDS.
---HOWEVER,
IF THIS IS ABOUT YOU, I'LL BE YOUR SHIELD ANYTIME
I'LL PROTECT YOU.
I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT... Y-YOU
I'm tired of this...
Time and again!
But-
NO, THIS IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO EXPRESS HOW I FEEL.

to the 14 years-old me, my everything is---
IF YOU HAD NOT BEEN THERE THAT DAY 4 YEARS AGO, I WOULD NOT BE WHO I AM NOW.
SINCE THEN IT HAS BEEN MY GOAL IN LIFE TO LEND YOU MY STRENGTH.
.....
Haa...
I COULD NEVER WIN AGAINST YOU..
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU COULD DO ABOUT IT?
NOT THAT.
IF YOU WOULD JUST TALK TO ME MORE CASUALLY ONCE IN A WHILE ..
MY APOLOGIES
ALL THE MORE REASON THAT I AM UNABLE TO IF IT IS YOU
SAYING THAT MUCH
IS CONSIDERED BEING BLUNT, YOU KNOW.
...MY APOLOGIES.
NO, STOP WITH THAT! I SAY IT'S OKAY

Hide-hito
Heeey, it's been so long, son...
Your dad's got out of jail where he had to eat shit
But you look like you're enjoying yourself much,
huh!
WHA-
STAND BACK!
!?
HIDE-HITO
Aah!!
Forgetting who raised you... This time you'll die suffering and in despair!

BUT
Shut up!
YOUR SWORD ARM'S INJURED!
I WILL!
SOMEONE LIKE HIM IS NOT WORTH THAT YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD.
!
If the little master's so worthy of your attention...
I'll kill him first!
Don't you go ignoring me, damn braaat!

even if
I get stabbed too
Stop
HIDE-HITO, STOP!
I'll kill him!
For the person who gave me light

Hey, hold him down!
Hurry!
HIDE-HITO
YOU...
JIN-SAN!
!?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

YOU'RE
THINKING AGAIN THAT YOU'RE OKAY WITH DYING!
YOU'D DIE FOR MY SAKE?!
O-
OF COURSE!
CUT THE CRAP!
WE'RE NOT MASTER AND SERVANT!
BUT SINCE THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT,
THEN I'LL ORDER YOU THIS ONCE!

LIVE
FOR ME.

MOSTLY...
!
IF YOU'RE SAYING IT'S MOSTLY FOR MY SAKE,
YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW YOU'RE MESSING WITH MY FEELINGS TOO, DAMMIT..
JUST AS YOU SAID,
I'D ALSO HATE TO LOSE YOU ...

THERE'S NO OTHER GUY WHO CAN SAY THEY'VE STRUCK ME TWICE IN THE BACK.
DON'T GO THINKING YOU CAN BRAG ABOUT BEING THE ONLY ONE.
AND DON'T EVER LET ANYONE ELSE HIT IT.
IN RETURN, I'LL ALSO HAVE YOUR BACK.

OKAY.
I saw the light.

One year and a half later.
My place to be that I need to protect.
The Seishirou Shindou incident occurred.
The people's hearts.
The future of the sword
For both shadows cast over the light.
And then even as our old world is slowly crumbling to ruins
in that place there's still

Light
and bliss
in that
one place,
they're
shining
brightly---
END

The other second years.
I was producing a series of illustrations of characters' faces and chose his randomly. His grandfather is Japanese and his grandmother is a foreigner, so he was born from a father who's half Japanese and a mother who's a foreigner. By his appearance, you couldn't guess he has Japanese blood. Being born in an old and prestigious family of blacksmiths, he's also striving to succeed his father in the family business and to enter the exclusive world of the sword, despite the obstacles he faces, due to his mixed blood and his appearance, that he doesn't put up with.

Samurai Drive Character Intro #9

サムライドライブキャラクター紹介 No.9

UKYOU TSURUGIBE AND THE OTHER SECOND YEARS.

Ouji-kun →
(temporary name)
is as his name says: a prince-like character. He's totally feminist. He's like a prince out of a fantasy who aspires to be a noble knight. He met Tsurugibe in Shiseikan. Since then he's been constantly watching him in secret with envious eyes.

Ponytail-kun (temporary name)
He keeps things to himself - more like, he doesn't speak. He's the quiet type and comes from a Chinese family. No matter what happens, he remains stoic by nature. He's the good guy who always listens patiently to Ouji-kun's troubles.

SAMURAI DRIVE
This marks the end of volume 2 safely delivered
Thank you.
Worn out though we're
MAN, I'M GLAD WE MANAGED TO PULL THIS OFF SOMEHOW...
OW!
Sneak attack!
WHA-WHAT? I WHO ARE YOU?!
I'M THE ERMINE SPIRIT. NICE TO MEET YOU.
FROM WHERE...?
I AM A MESSENGER OF PEACE FROM HEAVEN AND I CAME FOR THIS POOR ERMINE SHIROU'S SAKE...
Crap, a weirdo popped up.
UPON HEARING THAT
SHE HAD NOT, IN FACT,
EVEN ONCE BEEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT IN SD VOLUME 2...
MY HEART CRIES OUT FOR HER
Hey, how are ya gonna get back?
MOREOVER, WHAT WAS THAT AT P.136?
"THERE'S NO WOMEN"...?
SHIROU'S A HANDSOME GIRL!
Speaking of which, there's also Yukari-chan and Karuga-san

ONE SINGLE THING! ONE! DIDN'T YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS AT ALL?!
BOTH VOLUMES WERE ALL ABOUT CULTIVATING TRUE FRIENDSHIP
EVERYONE KNOWS THIS AFTER GOING THROUGH BOTH VOLUME 1 AND 2.
AFTER ALL...
IN TRUTH ALL OF YOU PEOPLE ARE TO BLAME
A PRECIOUS FRIEND, YOU KNOW?
IT'S A USEFUL THING HARUMA PICKED UP.
WELL, WELL
THIS AND THAT ARE ALL BECAUSE OF YOU IRUKI TAKAHARA-SAN IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, THE "HARUMA AND SHIROU SHIROYASHA THRILLING COMBO × REVENGE AND ROMANCE" WOULD HAVE BEEN BORN
Casually
Holy no, I didn't think so...?
HARUMA KOKONOE KUN!
YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?"
IN VOLUME 3
PLEASE, CAN I RELY ON YOU TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT IN THE NEXT VOLUME—?
WAIT! WHY YOU, YOU ARE ALSO TO BLAME SO IF YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU'LL SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
DIDN'T YOU GET MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT YOURSELF IN VOLUME 1 AND 2 BOTH?!

As always communication is not going so well

and the only new improvement is in fighting spirit

おしまい

SAMURAI DRIVE

2巻も最後まで読んでくださってありがとうございました。
今巻、3巻でまたお会いできれば嬉しいです。　よろしくお願いします。

1巻の時よりさらに厚くて大変だと思いますがおかげさまでとても楽しく描くことができました。担当　N本さん
1巻に引き続いてスマートでセンスのよいデザインをしてくださるデザイナー　福田さん
サムライドライブを描いて下さっている方への感謝。
お仲間と皆様の応援　支人
そしてサムライドライブを読んでくださっている方　皆様に感謝します。

2010年　秋　三好由加子

Web site　http://www.cobinrobin.com
Twitter　http://twitter.com/KOSUMI225

ご感想　ご意見などございましたらぜひ〜。
ホームページとか最近サムライドライブのイラストや情報を
頻繁にUPしたりしてるんで、遊びに来てくれると嬉しいです。

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コイツらの疾走は、
もう止められない。
乞う御期待!!
title
Samurai Drive
author
Fujiko Kosumi